

Docket No. F-8811

Ser. No. 10/549,397

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are pending. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2003-3355 and Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the same reference. Applicant has amended Claim 1 and traverses the rejection as follows.

Claim 1 now recites "wherein one ground structure and the other ground structure are knitted with different numbers of knitting needles, so that intervals between loops in either the front or back ground structure with the reduced number of loops are broadened as against the other ground structure."

In the three dimensional warp-knitted fabric in the amended Claim 1, the front and back ground structures are knitted with different numbers of knitting needles so that the number of loops of either the front or back ground structure is smaller than the number of loops in the other ground structure, and the loop interval (interval in the direction of width of the knitted fabric) is larger than the loop interval in the other ground structure.

Therefore, in comparison with the three dimensional warp-knitted fabric in the cited art, in which the number of loops of the front and back ground structures is the same, air permeability especially on the side of the ground structure having the

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less number of loops, can be significantly improved. On the side of the ground structure having less number of loops, for example, when it is used for car seats, chairs, beds, and so on, the surface area that comes in contact with the human body can be reduced, and hence there are effects such that the user can enjoy a soft feeling, has no sticky feeling even when he/she is sweating, so that an uncomfortable feeling can be avoided.

In addition, since the number of loops of the ground structure having less number of loops is 30 to 75% of that of the ground structure having larger number of loops, above-described effects can be achieved without deteriorating compression resistance and cushioning property which are inherent properties of the three-dimensional warp-knitted fabric.

In contrast, the three-dimensional knitwork disclosed in the cited reference includes the front and back ground structures, and connecting yarns for connecting the both ground structures, and is knitted without performing knock-over for one course (no loop is formed) in part at least one of the front and back ground structures, so as to obtain the three-dimensional knitwork in which the loop length is partly different. Therefore, the aforementioned part (the part where the loop length is different) may be different in the number of loops between the front and back ground structures, but the number of loops is not necessarily different between the front and

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back ground structures as an entire knitted fabric. For example, the numbers of loops of the front and back ground structures are the same as long as the number of courses of the part in which the knock over is not performed (the portion where the loop length is large). the range and the number thereof are the same between the front and back ground structures.

In addition, in this reference document, the density of the ground structure is partly reduced by partly providing larger loops (larger in loop length) in the ground structure. Therefore, it is different from the invention in this application in which the number of loops is different as a whole between front and back ground structures by knitting with different number of knitting needles, that is, it is different in structure and shape of the ground structures from the structure in which the number of loops in one of the ground structures is reduced without varying the size of the loop as the entire knitted fabric, and the density of one of the ground structures is reduced in comparison with the other ground structure by increasing loop intervals, and the means for reducing the density of the ground structure is also completely different.

In addition, since the three-dimensional knitwork fabricated according to the method in the referenced art has a configuration in which the loop size is partly different in the ground structure on one side, the tactile impression, the strength, and

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the air permeability of the entire ground structure may be inferior to the invention in this application.

Therefore, the description in the cited art does not imply the technology in the invention in this application such that the loop interval in one of the ground structures is widened in comparison with the other ground structure by knitting the front and back ground structures with different numbers of knitting needles, the number of loops of the one of the ground structures is smaller than the number of loops of the other ground structure, in particular, is 30 to 75% of the other ground structure.

Therefore, the invention recited in Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.


The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.


In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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